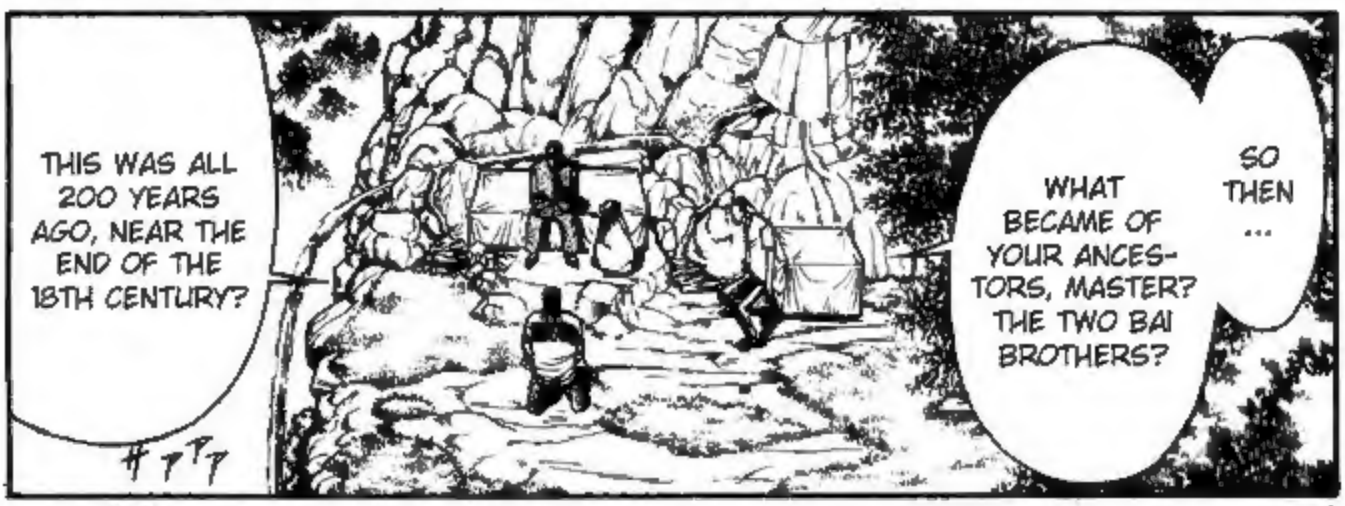
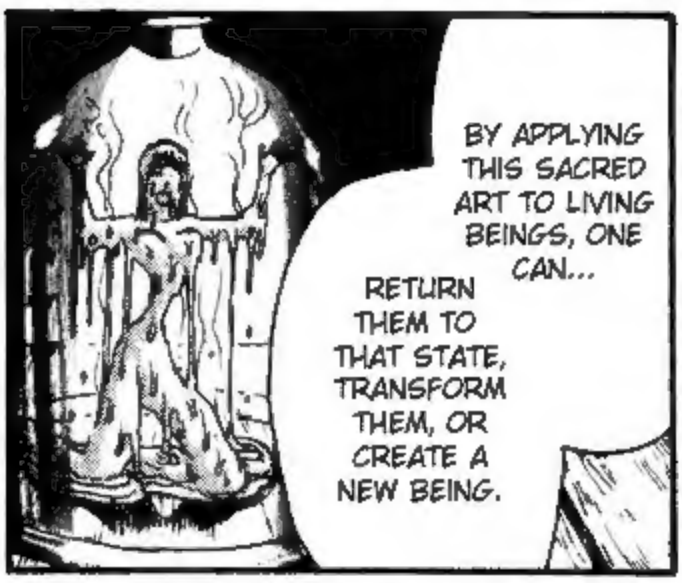
# Act 7
# Francine


THIS WAS ALL 200 YEARS AGO, NEAR THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY?
WHAT BECAME OF YOUR ANCES-TORS, MASTER? THE TWO BAI BROTHERS?
SO THEN ...

THEY BEGAN TO STUDY ALCHEMY IN DEPTH.
LUCKILY, THE ALCHEMIST WHO BECAME THEIR MENTOR ...
WAS NO FRAUD ...
AND UNDER HIS CAPABLE INSTRUC-TION...


BY APPLYING THIS SACRED ART TO LIVING BEINGS, ONE CAN...
RETURN THEM TO THAT STATE, TRANSFORM THEM, OR CREATE A NEW BEING.

LIVING BEINGS, MINERALS, AND OTHER MATERIALS: EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD WAS CREATED FROM ITS ORIGINAL STATE...
BY THE DEMI-URGE. THERE-FORE...

I SEE, MASTER.
THIS LEVEL OF HOMUN-CULUS ...
CAN BE RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL COMPONENTS WITH RELA-TIVE EASE.

THAT'S JIN FOR YOU ...

OH, NO, I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO...
BUT YOU ARE LEARNING WELL, JIN. YOU CAME HERE ONLY A YEAR AGO, YET YOU ARE ALREADY CAPABLE OF MAKING HOMUNCULI.

THE ELDER BROTHER, YIN, REDOUBLED HIS EFFORTS SO AS NOT TO FALL BEHIND HIS SKILLED YOUNGER BROTHER, EVEN FORGOING FOOD AND SLEEP IN FAVOR OF STUDYING.
AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER, I'VE GOT TO WORK HARD TOO!

WITH THE POWER OF ALCHEMY THEY COULD BREATHE LIFE INTO THEIR PUPPETS, AND CAUSE THEM TO MOVE LIKE HUMANS.
TO IMPROVE THE PUPPETEERING TECHNIQUES OF THEIR CLAN.
THEY HAD BUT ONE AIM ...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HERE IS YOUR PAY-MENT.

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BY DAY, THEY WALKED THE STREETS SELLING MEDICINE TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND FUND THEIR ALCHEMICAL RESEARCH.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
YOUR TEACHER'S MEDICINE IS VERY GOOD AT TREATING HEAD-ACHES.

... GOT IT.
YES, WELL, WHATEVER HER NAME IS... THERE ARE SOME UGLY RUMORS ABOUT THAT GIRL. HE SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
YEAH, FRAN-CINE...
BY THE WAY, YIN. IT SEEMS YOUR BROTHER HAS BEEN SPEAKING WITH THAT APPLE GIRL.
4
IS THAT SO... WELL, WE SHOULD GET BACK TO STUDYING.
YES, MASTER'S MEDICINES SELL VERY WELL. LOOK AT ALL THIS MONEY!
ちゃら ちゃら
BRO-THER!
OH, JIN. YOU MADE SOME SALES?
ばたん
IT'S MASTER YIN AND MASTER JIN.
OH!
THEY'RE VERY SWEET AND TASTY!
APPLES FOR SALE!
ER... YOU KNOW, BROTHER ...
WHAT IS IT, JIN?
UM... WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I BOUGHT... AN APPLE?

I LOVE BUYING APPLES FROM FRANCINE, BROTHER.

AND I'M BAI JIN.
I... I'M BAI YIN.
MY NAME IS FRANCINE. AND WHAT ARE YOU TWO CALLED?

TCH! WHAT AM I THINKING ABOUT? I SHOULD BE THINKING OF MY STUDIES.

THERE'S THAT FRANCINE AGAIN.

I JUST LOVE THEM!

OH, THEN YOU'RE FOREIGNERS. YOUR NAMES SOUND VERY NICE.

THAT GIRL IS A THIEF.
WHILE WEARING THOSE RAGS, NO LESS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY FATHER TOLD ME?
AND SHE'S GETTING FAR TOO FAMILIAR WITH JIN AGAIN.
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HMPH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS. SHE'S THAT LOW A WOMAN, HUH? I'D BETTER LET JIN KNOW.
EEK!
ぱたぱた
OH DEAR.
AH... MASTER YIN.
A THIEF ...?

BUT, BROTHER, SABBATH IS A DAY BLESSED BY THE LORD AS WELL.
JIN, WE'RE SCHOLARS. WE DON'T NEED TO BE OUT MERRY-MAKING.
EVEN WE NEED A REST SOME-TIMES ...
I THOUGHT THERE WERE A LOT OF PEO-PLE IN TOWN TODAY. IT'S BECAUSE OF THE CARNIVAL. WHY DON'T WE GO?
HEY, JIN...
BRO-THER!
THEY EVEN HAVE PER-FORM-ERS.
IT'S A FES-TIVAL THEY HAVE IN MAY.
CAR-NI-VAL?

I JUST LOVE WATCHING THE CLOWNS AND THE PER-FORMERS!
COME, LET'S GO SEE THE CARNIVAL!
JIN, THAT WOMAN IS...

H-HEY! JIN!
COME ON, BRO-THER. JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

OH, THANK YOU!
HERE ARE SOME SWEETS FOR YOU, FRANCINE.
AND YOU TOO, BROTHER.

SHE SURE LAUGHS A LOT. THAT'S NOT HOW A GOD-FEARING WOMAN SHOULD ACT...
WELL, SHE IS A THIEF, AFTER ALL. OF COURSE SHE'S VULGAR.

WHY ISN'T SHE EATING THE REST OF THE SWEETS ...?

PUPPET SHOWS ARE VERY POPULAR IN PRAGUE AND THE REST OF BOHEMIA.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT, BROTHER? PUPPETS.
I'D LIKE TO SEE... THE PUPPET SHOW.
WHAT SHOULD WE SEE NEXT?
REALLY ...?!
THE TWO OF US ARE FROM A FAMILY OF PUPPET-EERS.
EH? WHAT IS IT?
IS THAT SO?
シーン
EXCUSE ME, AREN'T YOU PUTTING ON A PUPPET SHOW?
HERE IT IS.
I SEE. THAT'S A SHAME.
NO CAN DO, YOUNG MAN.
THE MANI-PULATOR HAD TOO MUCH PILSEN. HE'S DEAD DRUNK.

FRAN-
CINE,
PLEASE
...
THIS IS YOUR BUSIEST SEASON. IT'D BE NICE IF YOU COULD GET THEM TO HELP OUT, NO?
I-I SUP-
POSE
...

SIR! AS A MATTER OF FACT, THESE TWO ARE PUPPETEERS!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND.

YOU'D BE SURE TO MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA FOR YOUR-
SELF, TOO.

WELL, I'M NOT GONNA
...

I'M SORRY. BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU TWO AT WORK.
HONESTLY, FRANCINE.
WILL YOU DO IT?
THAT'S TRUE.

PHEW...
...I GUESS I WILL
...
YOU REALLY WON'T DO IT, BRO-
THER?

.....


STRING PUPPETS, HUH?

WHAT A SMILE THIS WOMAN HAS...

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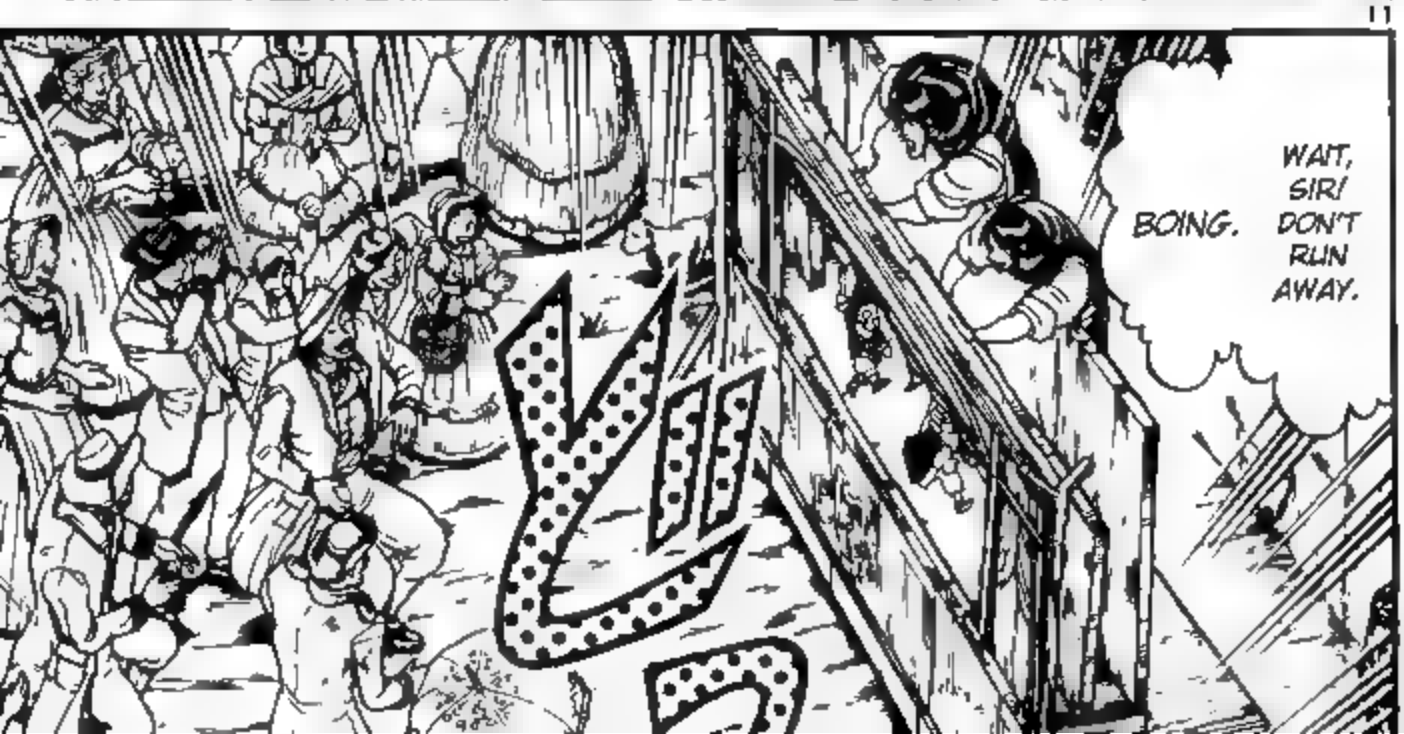
YAY!

BUT BRAVE PUNCH, WHO IS BLESSED BY A GODDESS, IS NOT PIERCED BY THEIR WEAPONS.
AYE.
AYE.
STAB HIM.
INSO-LENT SCOUN-DREL!

OH, NO.
OH, NO. WE CANNOT STAB HIM.


BOING.
WAIT, SIR! DON'T RUN AWAY.

AHAHAHAHA
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POW
POW
WAHH, FORGIVE ME...

SKIPPING OUT ON WORK AGAIN, DEAR?
AND THEN PUNCH'S WIFE ARRIVES ON THE SCENE.

SO ARE YOU, BRO-THER.
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS EVER, JIN.
AND SO OUR STORY COMES TO AN END.
OF COURSE, PUNCH IS NO MATCH FOR HIS WIFE...

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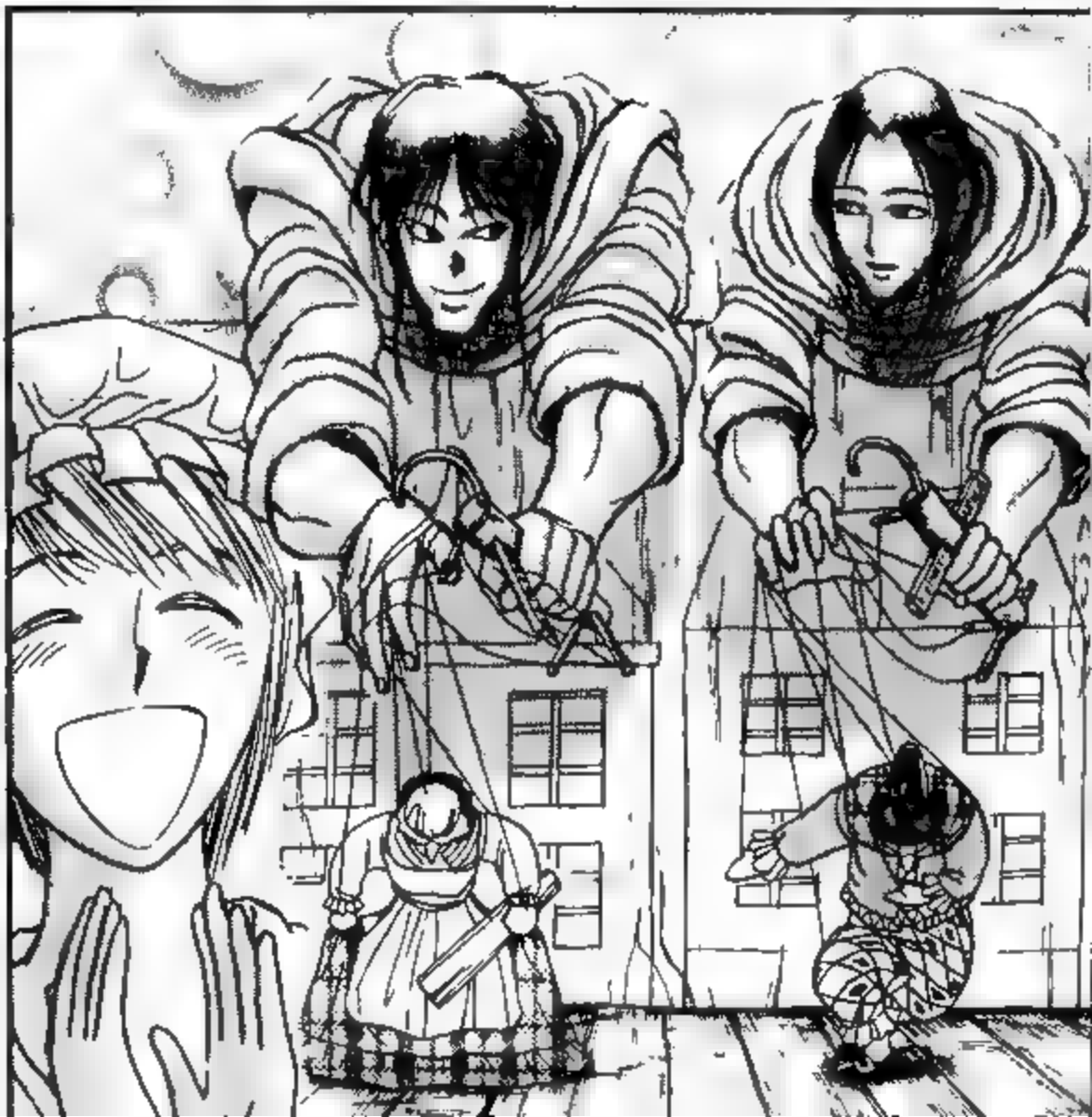

I WANT TO SEE YOU USE YOUR PUPPETS AGAIN SOME TIME.
UFU-FUFU... YOU TWO WERE SO POPULAR.
HEY... OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE. HE DRANK TOO MUCH PILSEN BEER.
HEY, JIN.


THEY COULDN'T PAY YOU IN MONEY, BUT THEY GAVE YOU THIS INSTEAD.
BUT YOU GOT ALL THIS BREAD FOR IT.
HMPH. WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO SHOW OFF OUR ACT.

YOU TAKE IT, THEN.
OH, MY... IT WOULD HELP ME VERY MUCH...
ISN'T GOING TO HELP US IN OUR QUEST FOR THE TRUTH.
ALL THAT MOLDY BREAD ...
TH-TH-THANK YOU.
HUH ...?!
ALL OF IT!

TCH.
Phew.
.....
GOOD-BYE, NOW.
TODAY WAS VERY FUN!
HERE WE GO...

THERE'S NO NEED...
AH...
HOLD ON... I'LL GO WITH YOU.

A-ALL RIGHT ...
IT'S NO TROU-BLE.

……

I GUESS PRAGUE HAS ITS SLUMS TOO...
YOU CAN FIND THEM ANYWHERE YOU GO.
THERE ARE ALWAYS MORE POOR PEOPLE THAN RICH.

OH, IT'S BIG SIS.
IT'S FRAN-CINE.
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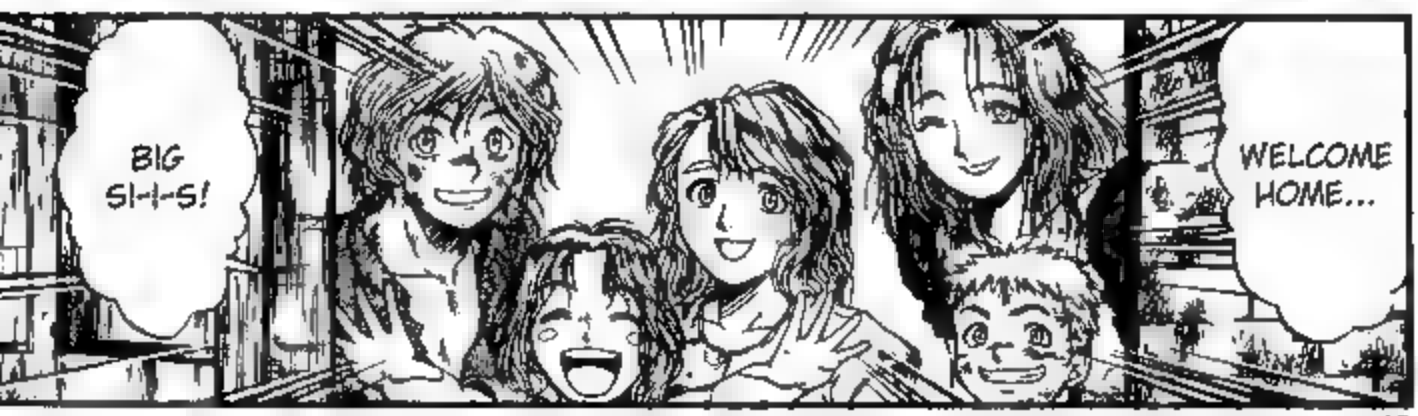
I'M HO-O-ME, EVERONE!


BIG SI-I-S!
WELCOME HOME...

WAIT A MOMENT! I HAVE A SURPRISE TODAY!
HUH ?

BIG SIS IS HERE, BIG SIS IS HERE!
ARE YOU ALL DOING WELL?
BIG SI-I-S!

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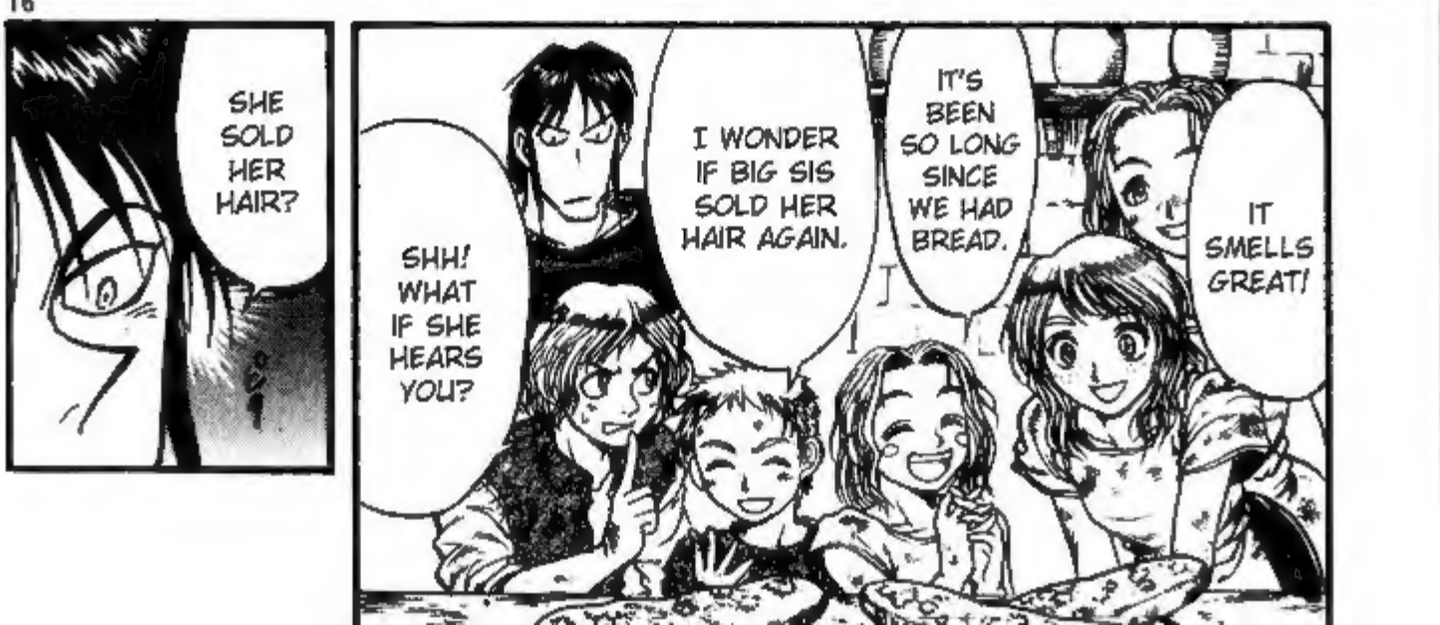
AAAND... BREAD!
LOOK, I HAVE SWEETS!
...SO THAT'S WHY...
WH-WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS?
MASTER YIN THERE GAVE IT TO ME-E-E!
AH... NO, I...
SAY THANK YOU, EVERYONE! COME ON NOW!
THANK YOU!
...AH. W-WEL-COME...
SAY GRACE BEFORE YOU EAT, EVERYONE.
OKAAAY!




IT SMELLS GREAT!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE HAD BREAD.
I WONDER IF BIG SIS SOLD HER HAIR AGAIN.
SHH! WHAT IF SHE HEARS YOU?
SHE SOLD HER HAIR?

LOVED BIG SIS'S LONG HAIR, BUT...
WE ALL...
DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING? YOU CAN SELL BEAUTIFUL HAIR FOR A LOT OF MONEY SO RICH PEOPLE CAN MAKE WIGS WITH IT.
... WHAT ?
BIG SIS HAD TO SELL HER HAIR.
YEAH. ONCE, WHEN WE HAD NOTHING AT ALL TO EAT ...

WE'VE GOT BREAD TODAY! BE HAPPY!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL SO QUIET FOR?
COME ON, NOW!

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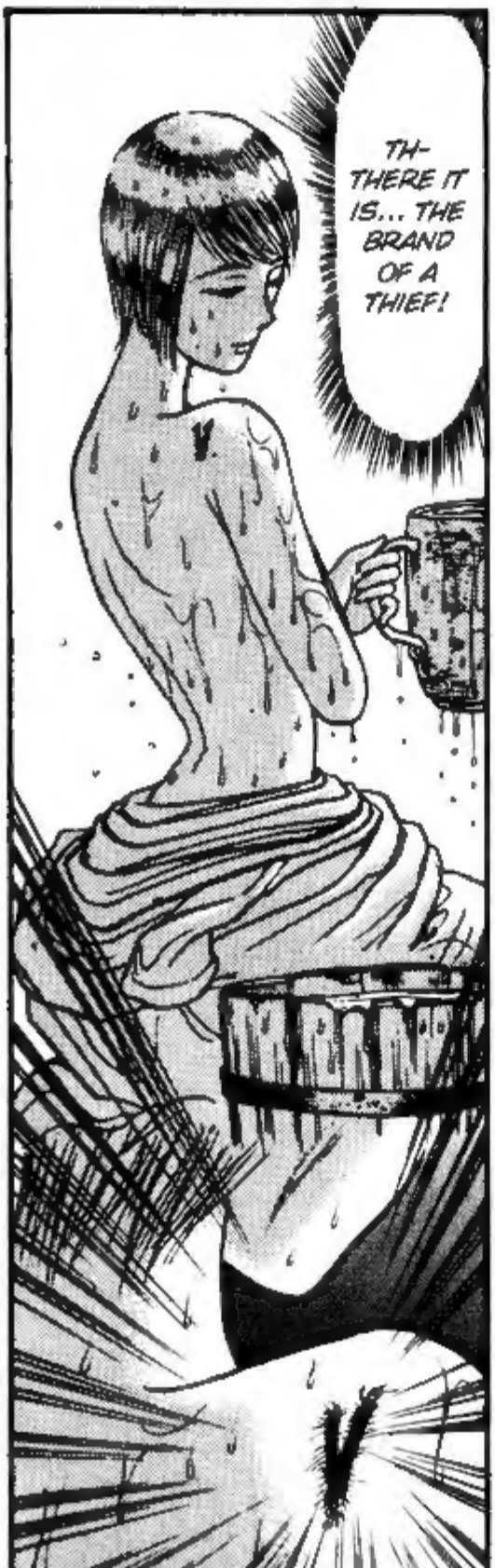
HEE HEE.
Y-YEAH.
IT DOES.

AND ANYWAY ...
DOESN'T THIS HAIRSTYLE ALSO SUIT ME VERY WELL?

WHERE'S SHE GOING WITH THAT BREAD?
OKA-AY.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, MASTER YIN.
I'M STEPPING OUT FOR A MOMENT. START WITHOUT ME!

FRAN-CINE...
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF WOMAN ARE YOU ?!


TH-THERE IT IS... THE BRAND OF A THIEF!

splash

WHY IS SHE BATHING ...?
!
HUH ....?

.....!
BADUMP!

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

**pg. 18**: The V is for the French *voleuse*.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.